



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
INFORMATION SERVICE

*Office files*  
*9/11/53*

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release to AM's OF THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1953

REVISE GOOSE SHOOTING REGULATIONS IN ILLINOIS

An amendment to the migratory waterfowl hunting regulations for the 1953-54 season permitting the shooting of geese in a certain portion of Alexander County in southern Illinois was signed today by Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay.

The area now to be closed to shooting is considerably smaller than that originally covered by Presidential Proclamation 2748 of October 1, 1947. At that time the closed area contained some 15,000 acres of land and water, "more or less in Alexander County in Illinois", and included the Horseshoe Lake Refuge owned by the State of Illinois. The present amendment reduces the size of the closed area to approximately 9,000 acres of land and water.

The Horseshoe Lake area in Alexander County was closed to the hunting of geese in 1947 upon the recommendation of the Secretary of the Interior to increase the population of these game birds. This action was supplemented by a similar proclamation issued by the Governor of Illinois.

In commenting on the revision to the regulations, John L. Farley, Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, said, "The flock of geese in the Horseshoe Lake area of the Mississippi Flyway has grown to the point where an increased annual take of the birds is safe and desirable. Also, crop depredations have become substantial with the increased size of the flock. There is every biological justification and requirement that a greater harvest of these birds be made. The State of Illinois, following conferences with personnel of the Fish and Wildlife Service, has proposed a reduction in the size of the closed area as a logical means of accomplishing this, and in amending the proclamation, we are adopting the recommendations of the State to bring about conditions that should result in a greater harvest."

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